besides abolishing 44 posts of Directors and below and 1675 posts in the Currency and Coinage Division which were targeted to be accomplished by July, 2001;

(b) the present status of the exercise if completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL); (a) and (b) One post of Special Secretary has been abolished and another post of Special Secretary has been downgraded to the level of Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs. The incumbent of the post of Chief Commissioner (NRI & Investment), a Secretary level post, has been transferred and the post is kept vacant pending approval of the proposal for restructuring of the India Investment Centre. In addition, one post at the level of Additional Secretary, two posts at the level of Joint Secretary and 39 posts at the level of Director and below have been abolished. Abolition of the remaining 5 posts below Director level is also under consideration. In the Currency and Coinage Division, 1698 posts have been abolished.

(c) Does not arise.

Import duty on maize

3920. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to increase import duty on maize; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No Sir. There is no proposal to increase import duty on maize at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Condition of public and private sector banks

†3921. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Public and Private Sector Banks has constantly been deteriorating;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.